THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) There was no backlog vacancy reserved for SCs/STs as on 1.7.2004 in any of three Departments of Ministry of Personnel, PG and Pensions. However, 60 backlog vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were identified as on 1.7.2004 in the constitutional/ statutory organizations under the Ministry namely, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) (09), Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) (02), Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) (05) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) (44) for being filled up through a Special Recruitment Drive. 27 backlog vacancies have since been filled up and the remaining vacancies in the UPSC (04), CAT (02), CBI (24) and CVC (03) are in the process of being filled up.

Indian workers in Afghanistan

*500. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in November, 2005 M. Kutty, a driver working with BRO, was abducted by the Taliban and three days later his body was found in Kandhar and now the murder of Suryanarayana, a Telecom engineer, posted in Afghanistan has raised question about Government's decision to expose around 2,000 Indians working in Afghanistan to potential terrorist attack at the hands of Taliban;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to save the lives and properties of Indians who are at present working/living in Afghanistan; and

(c) the nature of security provided by Government of Afghanistan for their protection and safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) In November 2005, Shri Maniappan Raman Kutty, a driver working with Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was abducted and killed by Taliban. Shri K. Suryanarayana, an Indian Telecom Engineer was killed by the Taliban on 29 April 2006. The Government of India's decision to help the Government and people of

Afghanistan in their reconstruction and development efforts was based on the historically close relations between the two countries. There are approximately 2000 Indian nationals working in Afghanistan on Government of India/and aid projects for private companies from India and other countries, international organizations and Government of Afghanistan. Indians engaged in Government of India aid projects are provided security by the Governments of Afghanistan and India under bilateral arrangements. Those working with private companies, international organizations and Government of Afghanistan are provided security by their respective employers.

The Embassy of India in Kabul is in close touch with the Government of Afghanistan on the subject of ensuring the security of Indians working in Afghanistan. A security advisory was issued by the Embassy of India, Kabul to all Indians and their companies working in Afghanistan soon after the killing of BRO official in November 2005. Additional security personnel have been deployed at the BRO's road project locations. Subsequently, the Embassy had held meetings with representatives of Indian companies to emphasise the need for observing security precautions strictly. Workers from private companies, international organizations and Government of Afghanistan are advised to insist on satisfactory security arrangements from their employers and to also comply with security instructions. All Indians working in Afghanistan are urged to register themselves with the Embassy of India, Kabul. Government of Afghanistan has deployed local police guards at the sites of Indian projects in Afghanistan. In addition, as and when required, additional security is provided for Indian nationals. In India, Government regularly reviews the security arrangements with concerned Ministries and agencies to ensure the safety of all Indian nationals in Afghanistan.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Generation from RAPS

3486 SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Unit-1 of Rajasthan Atomic Energy Power Station (RAPS), Rawatbhata has stopped generation since October, 2004;